(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating reasons for importing foodgrains for distribution under World Food Programme in India when the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is overstocked and looking for all possible outlets for its surplus; and

(c) whether the Central Government are contemplating to make foodgrains available to the World Food Programme at global rates through FCI as was done in the case of 55,000 tonne, of cereals sold to WFP this year through the FCI; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. World Food Programme, an Organisation in the UN system has been providing food assistance to India for various projects relating to Development and Nutritional and Feeding Programmes. On 17th Nov., 1994 Plan of Operations for Project-2783, Expansion—Poverty Alleviation through Forestry Activities and Tribal Development in Gujarat was signed between Govt. of India and WFP. The project involved food-aid of 29200 Metric Tonne of wheat, 1095 Metric Tonne vegetable oils and 2920 Metric Tonne of Pulses valued at $ 9.0 million for a period of three years. The food aid will be provided as food ration on subsidised and voluntary basis to the beneficiaries working under afforestation activties in Gujarat in the districts of Panchmahals, Vadodra, Valsad, Bharuch, Sabarkantha and Dangs, primarily benefiting the people belonging to STs, SCs and other Weaker Sections.

Resources of WFP are formed by the contributions made by member-countries in the form of Food commodities and cash. Generally, WFP provides food commodities to the aid recipent countries. Subject to the availability of cash resources, and availability of food commodities in the aid reciepient countries, WFP makes local purchases of those food commodities against funds or by making available the commodilies imported by the country. However, the WFP has been persuaded to made local purchase from FCI to the extent possible.

(c) While considering the supply of foodgrains (wheat and rice) to WFP during this year (1994-95), the Govt. have agreed to allow FCI to sell foodper year for the period of three years grains upto the value of US/ 15 million for their projecs in India from Central Pool socks with FCI. However, the Govt. have no objection if WFP purchases these foodgrains from the Open market in India. So far, the FCI has sold 62606 Metric Tonnes foodgrains (55206 Metric Tonnes of wheat and 7400 Mertic Tonnes of rice) to WFP during 1994-95.

Sub-standard rice in FCI goodowns in West Bengal

520. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) wheher it is a fact that a huge quantity of rice in the godown of Food Corporation of India in West Bengal have been found to be substandard by the expert Committee;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of rice (godown-wise) which has been found substandard by the expert Committee stating the estimated value involved;

(c) the circumstances under which the stock of rice has been allowed to decay; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to dispose of the stocks of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) A quantity of 11683 Metric Tonnes of old stock of rice was declared substandard in the State of West Bengal and was offered for sale through tenders in August, 1993. Some tenderers moved Calcutta High Court before the opening of tenders. The Hon'ble High Court (DB) ordered the stocks to be sold with some conditions and while the sale process was in

motion, another person who was not a tenderer, filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court appointed a Committee of experts which tested the stocks and submitted their report. A quantity of 1723.80 Metric Tonnes out of 6023.80 Metric Tonnes sub-standard rice which was tested/examined by expert Committee was found not suitable for upgradation due to off flavour and discolouration in grain in the following godowns:—

Food Storage Depot, Cossipore.	502.4 Metric Tonnes
Food Storage Depot, Shalimar.	423.2 Metric Tonnes
Food Storage Depot, Gopalpur.	91.2 Metric Tonnes
Food Storage Depot, Sitarampur.	273.6 Metric Tonnes
Central Ware housing Corporation, Shyam Nagar.	433.4 Metric Tonnes
TOTAL	1723.8 Metric Tonnes

The estimated value of above quantity is Rs. 1,19,28,388 calculated at existing central issue price of rice. These stocks were rendered sub-standard due ot progressive deterioration during long storage in depots. Mode of disposal of these stocks is to be decided on receipt of final orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court as the matter is sub-judice.

Missing FCI truck loads of rice

521. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that several truck loads of rice despatched from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns in Jalandhar and Ludhiana districts are missing; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that consignments sent to the valley in early 1990 from the above mentioned districts had not been acknowledged by the Consignee; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 1400 metric tonnes rice despatched this year in trucks from Ludhiana district had ended up in the Delhi market; if so, the details of action taken by Government in the matter; and

(d) what steps Government have taken so that the above mentioned racket may not happen again in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delicensing of sugar industry

522. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to delicense the sugar industry in the country;

(b) if so, what is its likely overall impact on the cooperative sector and the new units coming in this sector; and

(c) whether delicensing of sugar industry is likely to affect the prices of sugar and production of sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) The option for delicensing the sugar industry in the country is presently under consideration of the Government, keeping in view the views of Cooperative Sector, Public Sector and Private Sector and also its impact on production prices etc.

मध्य प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों की भण्डारण क्षमता

523. **श्री अजीत जोगी :** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों की भण्डारण क्षमता कितनी थी ;